WASHINGTON.

The Feeling at the National Capital Regarding the Anti-Catholic Secret Society.

THE SENTIMENT WHICH ORIGINATED IT

The Reverence of the American for the School System.

OPPORTUNITY OF DEMAGOGUES.

A Prominent Republican on the Coming Issues and the Third Term.

Democratic Preparations for Retrenchment.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875. THE HERALD EXPOSE OF THE SECRET ANTI-CATHOLIC ORDER IN WASHINGTON-WHAT A PROMINENT REPUBLICAN THINES OF THE SENTIMENT WHICH IT EMBODIES AND OF THE

A leading republican, who prefers to have his name unknown, said to-day, in conversation concerning the anti-Catholic society exposure in the HERALD:-

THIRD TERM.

"If this society exists, and if it has had its origin in the speech of the President at Des Moines, as some people assert, then he has shown himself one of the shrewdest politicians of the day. The anti-Catholic cry is, of course, nonsense and worse. The Catholics are not formidable in this country, not merely because they lack numbers, but because, with our free institutions, they cannot obtain such an exclusive foothold as they can in most European States except England. But what still further disables them is that they are and always have been objects of suspicion here and in England. They are so here not only to the farmers and average citizens, but to many of our most thoughtful men. I remember, directly after the close of the late war, hearing one of the most eminent publicists of the Atlantic States, a man so far from being a religious bigot that he is a Darwinian and disciple of Herbert Spencer, declare his belief that our next war would be caused by Roman Catholic interference." "But bow does this make an anti-Catholic society a

"It appeals to the fears and prejudices, not only of the ignorant, but of many cultivated and enlightened people," he replied. "It adroitly brings up a question which it is not impossible may be made to overslaugh all others for the next canvass. It is one of the most dangerous tricks which a demagogue ever invented, for, if it becomes a political question, it will overshadow and put aside all others, and it will sweep the country and put off all necessary reforms. I am not, as you know, a third term man. I believe there are very few such, and that if General Grant, imitating the example of General Washington, would make a declaration refusing a third term, there would be no third termers at all the day after it was published, except, perhaps, a few hairbrained Methodist prelates like Bishop Haven and a few unscrupulous negro leaders in the South. I have not the least fear that the Re. publican Convention will go for a third term. I know dozens of men who new timidly keep silence on that subject because they hold office or need patronage, but who would vigorously oppose it in the convention. It is a thing that has no strength in the country, unless a secret political organization can be manipulated for it, and this I doubt. But in any event the danger is great that such a society, if there is one, will be used, as all secret political organizations are, to bring uppermost the vilest elements in the porty to which it will turn."

Do you believe Mr. Blaine is a member of this society, as the HERALD report asserts?"

"I do not, and the absurdity of such reports is recog-nized by those who have watched Blaine and know his proverbial caution in all such matters. He comes, besides, from an old Scotch-Irish Presbyterian stock in Pennsylvania, and that kind of people are not given to onalism in either religion or politics." Here he laughed and said, "Blaine's friends have a good toke on him to-day, and I would just as soon tell it to you as not. The HERALD says that Cowles, of Cieveland, was Now this is not true, for he was not here then; but, as it happens, Cowles was in Washington on Monday, and on that evening dined at Blaine's house, in company with Eugene Hale, General Garfield, McPher son and Kasson and several other republicans, who were, no doubt, amazed, and perhaps annoyed, at the HERALD'S report, which came here yesterday. "If Blaine is not a member will he deny it?"

"I don't know," was the reply; "I would not if I were charged with it, as I may be to-morrow. In the first place a public man almost always blunders if he denies anything, and then, in my opinion, it will not hurt any of us to be supposed or suspected to belong to such a society, if there is one. Very few people but fools and demagogues will join such a society, because the genius of our people is hostile to such things, and our older politicians know, by a disgusting experience of Know Nothingism, how dangerous it is to their personal fortunes to join such a secret order. The poor Vice President was annoyed half out of his life by the charge that he had been a Know Nothing; but I give it to you as my deliberate conviction that nobody will suffer in the esteem of the majority of the American people just now by a charge of being an anti-Catholic. If I were Blaine would not deny anything. He does not need to."

"Why do you suppose the people so excitable on this subject just now?"

"They have always been excitable on it. They are more so just now because the Roman Catholic press, particularly in the West, has for the last year taken a ery positive ground against our common schools. I have been amazed at their folly, for they ought to know that this is one of two subjects on which the people of the Northern States in particular are quite capable of becoming crazy. If any one can persuade our people either that the common schools are in danger, or that the rights and lives of the Southern negroes are in serious danger, he can sweep the whole Northern States. Hence the extreme danger of such a movement as this and the folly of the Roman Catholic journals I speak of. I thought their sudden outburst unaccountable, until it was suggested to me by a liberal Catholic friend who agrees with me, as I Lelieve almost all thinking Catholics do, that the journals in question were of late controlled or inspired by foreign priests, who, driven out by Bismarck, have been sent here and who do not know the habits of thought of our people and simply follow the policy and manner to which they were accustomed in Germany. They are helping this secret Order by what they write. I happen to know that their editorials are carefully preserved by more than one politician for possible future use, and they would make very effective campaign documents, I can tell you. If I were a Roman Catholic writer I would fight very shy of the echool question, and if I were a democrat I would make haste to adopt Blaine's amendment, or a stronger one if it can be made. If they oppose that, as some democrats I know mean to do, they will lose the next Presi dential election as sure as fate, and they may be the means of giving us a President and administration shashelessly corrupt and ignorant. For if this question comes up the worst demagogue in our party is likely to ride into the White House on it, in my opinion."

"I don't know. But I am not afraid of the third term. There was I think, danger of it at one time, but the President has offended too many of our prominent men to succeed now if he wants to. Do you really suppose our leading men are a pack of sheep? A good many of them want to live in the White House, and them can't afford to wait much jonger for their turns. The republican party is remarkably rich in Presidential

"Do you believe General Grant is scheming for a

timber. Blaine, Fish, Bristow, Washburne, Jewell, Hayes, John Sherman and half a dozen others are per fectly good names to bring before the country. Not one of them would refuse, and not one of them would like to see Grant renominated. On the other hand, the democrats have hardly one candidate free from suspi-cion of some kind. Bayard is almost the only one. He, and perhaps Kerr, are the only men whom they outd trot out without an almost predestined defeat."

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPRO-PRIATIONS AT THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. HOW MR. BANDALL PROPOSES TO REDUCE

EXPENDITURES. The Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Mr. Randall, visited several of the departments to-day and had consultations in regard to reduction of expenditures. He is fully convinced, after an examina-tion of estimates, that he can save \$40,000,000 annually without detriment to the public service. He proposes to begin with the army and navy, and reduce the cost of each \$10,000,000. To do this he intends to introduce a bill cutting down the army to 15,000 and to make appropriations in accordance with this bill. He expects co-operation in this matter from the republican minority. It is the intention to make this reduction in some manner not yet fully determined, but such as shall cause the least hardship to the officers of both branches of the service. One plan is to place them on the retired list for a certain time; another, to stop all promotion and make no appointments to vacancies. It is possible that employment may be found for a large number of officers in the Indian Bureau if, as is now thought probable, Congress turns that over mainly to the War

In regard to the navy, it is proposed to cut off nearly all the small vessels and a corresponding number of officers and seamen. In this connection it has been ascertained that the sentiment of the committee is decidedly against allowing one dollar of ap-propriation to cover Secretary Robeson's late extra expenditures, and if he has spent his appropriation without warrant of law, that he must take the conse-

duced. If it is decided to put the disbursements of annuities and the purchasing and issuing of supplies into the hands of the army, it will be possible to pense with nearly the whole enormous Indian civil

A talk with the Commissioner of Pensions revealed the conviction that by a small appropriation for the employment of experts to visit the various agencies and investigate the condition of certain classes of pen-sioners, the Commissioner believed that from half a million to a million—probably the latter sum—could be stricken at once from the roils. A large saving will be effected in the sums heretofore appropriated for the surveys of public lands.

Mr. Randall is convinced that the expenses of the diplomatic and consular service can be so cut down as to reduce the annual appropriation from \$1,300,000 to about \$900,000. He regards it as certain that no appropriations whatever will be made for new public buildings; that the annual sums heretofore appropriated to carry on work upon those in progress will be much reduced, with the idea of checking all further extravagance in their construction.

The River and Harbor bill will be very materially reluced, and little will be given for fortifications.

The contingent fund of all the departments will be cut down more than one-half, and the usual appropriations for furnishing the public buildings throughout the country will be almost wholly

A very large reduction will be made in the cost of the mail service, and the saving here will be chiefly taken from the appropriations for transportation.

Mr. Randall expects full co-operation from the Treasury Department in all efforts for reducing expenses. He says he does not intend to cut down a single dollar where it can be fairly shown that it is absolutely needed for the efficiency of the public service; but every item in excess of this will be altogether eliminated.

THE LAWRENCE SMUGGLING CASE-VERY SPECE PIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

PIERREPONT. Bliss, of New York, insisting upon trying Lawrence upon the whole nine counts in the indictment, being five counts for offences for which he was not extradited from Great Britain, appeal was made by the counsel for Lawrence to the Attorney General, insisting that delinite and peremptory instructions should be immediately forwarded to Mr. Bliss ordering him to try Lawrence for the offences for which he was extradited, and none other. Lawrence, it will be remembered, was extradited for forging and uttering a certain bond and affidavit to secure an entry of goods through the New York Custom House. He was brought from England upon a warrant of extradition issued by the Secretary of State of Great Britain. Upon arraignment before Judge Benedict he refused to plead to five counts in the indictment upon the ground that they were for offences not mentioned in the warrant of extradition. The Judge, however, directed pleas of not Lawrence moved to strike out these pleas, upon the ground that the District Attorney had been instructed by the President and Attorney General not to proceed upon the same; but the Judge denied the motion. Bliss insisted that he had received no such instructions, but, on the contrary, he was ordered by the Attorney General to try Lawrence on all nine counts. To-day the Attorney General, in order to settle the matter definitely, and to prevent further avoidance of the instructions of the President and Department of Justice by Mr. Bliss, issued the following pithy commu-

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1870.

Washington, Dec. 22, 1870.

Work City. GRORGE BLISS, Leve,
York City:

Six—Application is again made to me in the Lawrence case, with a long record and opinion of Judge
Benedict. I now repeat what I have before written,
with carefulness and urgency, and what I carefully
tried to impress upon you when I saw you here, that for
grave political reasons Lawrence must first be tried upon
grave political reasons Lawrence must first be tried upon
grave political reasons that the same settradited, and upon no tried to impress upon you when I saw you here, that for grave political reasons Lawrence must first be tried upon the charge upon which he was extradited, and upon no other, until that trial is ended. And whether subsequent proceedings for other crimes shall or shall not be taken must await the order of the President. Now, taken must await the order of the President. Now, taken must await the order of the President. Now, to shall not be taken must await the order of the President. Now, taken must await the order of the president of the papers, it is perfectly easy for you and the Court to determine upon what charge Lawrence was extradited, and to proceed to try him upon that charge, and upon that only. This is a matter or very ereat importance, and you must not blunder in upon that charge, and upon that only. This is a matter of very great importance, and you must not blunder in it. There are consequences involved in it of a serious nature, as I have already verbally told you, and we want to proceed in strict conformity with interdational law and international courtesy. Therefore, I merely add, try him tirst upon the charge for which he was extradited, and for that only. This instruction is so specific and so definite that it does not seem possible that an honest mistake can be made in this case. Very respectfully,

EDWARDS PIERREPONT,

Attorney General is determined that his in-

The Attorney General is determined that his instructions shall be so definite that no mistake can be made in the case. The Treasury Department takes a deep interest in this trial and in its earnest and vigorous prosecution, as Lawrence is one of the confederates of Des Anges, the Deputy Collector, whose late conviction is regarded by Secretary Bristow as having effectually broken a ring in New York, organized to defraud the customs revenue on a scale fully equal to the St. Louis Whiskey Ring.

RUMOR OF THE RESIGNATION OF MR. MORRISON AS CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS DENIED.

Reports were industriously circulated to-day that Mr. Morrison, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, had resigned, and that Mr. Cox would have the offer of his place. Mr. Morrison says there is no truth in these reports. He will hold the place, and, while making no pretensions to be a great man, he means to do his duty faithfully, and hopes to serve the country honestly.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1875. THE RECENT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE UNION PACIFIC RAILBOAD

CASE. It is reliably ascertained that Secretary Bristow has not yet even read the opinion of the Supfeme Court favorable to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and therefore has not taken action upon the subject. The report that he has ordered the sum adjudged due to be paid to that company is, therefore, erroneous.

THE YIELD OF BULLION IN NEVADA. Information has been received by Dr. Linderman, Director of the Mint. to the effect that the Consolidated

Virginia Mine in Nevada has its hoisting apparatus reilt and about 600 tons of ore are being raised daily Of this 500 tons are through the shaft of the Consol dated Virginia Mine, and 100 tons through the shaft of the Gould and Curry Mine. This amount of ere will produce about \$2,000,000 worth of bullion per month. It is being crushed in the different mills on the Carson River, those of the Consolidated Virginia not being completed, though work upon them is being pushed forward rapidly, and they will soon be in working order. The rain storms in California, as well as snow upon the mountains this year, have commenced about month earlier than usual, which insures the exten sive working of the hydraulic placer gold mines in that ection, and the prospect is that the yield of bailion will gradually increase for some months to come

MODIFICATION OF THE OEDER FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT PROBIBITING THE IM-PORTATION OF HIDES FROM GREAT ERITAIN The Secretary of the Treasury has written to the Colector of Customs at New York with regard to the refusal of that officer to allow the entry of certain dry ox hides alleged to be "Peruvian hides," imported from Great Britain under the department circular, prohibit ing the importation of neat cattle and hides of neat cattle from Great Britain. The letter states the circular was issued in consequence of the prevalence of the hoof and mouth disease in that country, and was intended to prevent the introduction of the disease into the might be infected, but was not intended to prohibit the importation of hides imported into Great Britain from other countries and exported thence to the United States. If the Collector is satisfied that the hides in question are Peruvian hides he is authorized to allow the entry thereof.

THE DEPARTURE OF MAILS FROM NEW YORK. The Postmaster General to-day authorized the United States mails to be carried on the new line of War & Co., between New York city and the ports of St. Jago and Clenfuegos, Cuba, commencing December 30, by the steamer Liberty, and monthly thereafter, the compensation to be the sea postages as in all other

The department gives notice that as no steamer o the Inman or White Star lines is to leave New York on the 25th inst., the mails for Europe on that day will be despatched by the steamship Elysia, of the Anchor Line, which, for their quick delivery, will stop at

THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE.

The commission to investigate the affairs of the Sec ond Comptroller's office, in connection with the Sugg Fort and Winowski cases, have completed the hearing of evidence, and the report is now being prepared to transmission to the Secretary. The members of the ommission are entirely reticent concerning whatever conclusions have been reached. Great interest is felt in the report, as involving the transaction of business in the office of the Second Comptroller, and will probably reach the Secretary early next week.

THE TRANSPORTATION OF UNAPPRAISED MER-CHANDISE-INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

The following circular has been addressed to collect ors of customs with regard to transportation of unappraised merchandise:-

appraised merchandise:—

It appearing from evidence before this department that there is some lack of uniformity at the several ports in the practice relating to the importation of unappraised merchandise, and that further instructions upon the subject are necessary, the department has concluded to prescribe the following regulations, which will be strictly observed by the officers concerned:—

First.—The transfer of all such inerchandise at the port of destination to the appraiser's store for examination, or to a bonded warehouse under general order or otherwise, will be made by the custom house draymen in custom house carts.

draymen in custom house carts.

Second.—The bill of lading should in all cases be transmitted by mail with the immediate transportation transmitted by mall with the immediate transportation entry invoice and manifest, or if such bill of lading re-late to more than one shipment, or embrace goods con-signed to more than one importer, a copy of the portion thereof describing the merchandise mentioned in the invoice forwarded will be sent, embracing all information in reference to charges for transportation or other wise contained in the original bill of lading necessary to enable the officer at the port of arrival to properly estimate the duties legally accruing on such merchan-dise.

estimate the duties legally accruing on such merchandise.

Third—An inspection by the department of entries and accompanying documents gathered at different points, shows that duties are not invariably levied at the port of destination of merchandine forwarded as aforesaid on such charges and commissions as under the law are dutiable. The attention of the officers at these posts is therefore called to the subject, and they are enjoined to exercise the greater care to comply strictly with the laws relating to the addition to the invoice presented of all dutiable commissions and charges.

Fourth—In preparing separate manifests in triplicate for each car transporting merchandise as aforesaid, collectors will observe the instructions of 1874, which, in some instances, seem to have been disregarded.

Fifth—To prevent the inconvenience to the government and the importer incident to the arrival at the port of destination of a portion only of a consignment, the officer of the customs at the port of departure will endeavor, as far as practicable, to cause to be forwarded at one time all goods embraced in one invoice and entry.

Sizth.—Inasmuch as the transportation of unap-

entry.

Sixth.—Inasmuch as the transportation of unappraised merchandise for convenience of importers, under even the best rules, must be necessarily attended with some danger to the revenue, collectors of cus-toms are directed to carefully comply with all the regu-tions upon the subject now in force, and to require vigilance on the part of their subordinates in prevent-ing any infraction thereof.

DOM PEDRO.

HIS BRAZILIAN MAJESTY'S PREPARATIONS FOR HIS VISIT TO AMERICA-THE IMPERIAL PARTY TO COME DIRECT TO NEW YORK.

RIO DE JANEIRO, NOV. 16, 1875. The Jornal do Commercio, of this city, which is usually well posted, said, a few days ago, that their Majesties the Emperor and Empress would go to the United States by England, as the New York packet service is at an end. To-day, however, I am able to service is at an end. To-day, however, I am able to say that their Majesties are arranging to go direct, the firm of Norton, Megaw & Youle, of this city, agonts of the Lamport & Holt line of Liverpool steamers, having informed the Emperor that they are prepared to place one of their finest steamers at his disposal, to take him to New York direct, at any date he chooses to name and at short notice. Therefore, some time in April you may expect their Majesties among you. Viscount Bom Pretero, Viscount de Nioac and Dr. Souza Fontes have been already appointed members of the small suite who will accompany them.

THE COMING VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY TO THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON Dec. 22, 1875. Information has been received in Washington that the Emperor of Brazil will leave that country, probably in April, for the United States. He will travel as a private gentleman, as he did four years ago in England, without any distinction as to his rank, and will not only attend

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION, but will travel over much of our country for pleasure

and instruction. The Emperor's daughter, the Princess Isabel, will act as regent during his absence. No more favorable time could be selected for the visit, as Brazil is in an entirely peaceful condition, with no apprehen-sion whatever of public disturbance. The recent

sion whatever of public disturbance. The recent PARDONING OF THE TWO BISHOPS, who were more than a year ago couvicted and imprisoned for alleged State offences, has had a good effect upon the feelings of the people. Brazil was one of the first nations to accept the invitation to be represented at the Centennial Exhibition. The sum of \$50,000 was appropriated by that government, which will have a small building on the grounds for the display in a creditable manner of some of the natural play in a creditable manner of some of the natural products of that country.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22, 1875. Commander Alfred Hopkins is ordered to command the Wyandotte; Assistant Paymaster Reah Frazer is ordered to the Catskill; Chief Engineer William G Buchler to special duty at New York, in connection with the construction of machinery; Cadet Engineer G. H. F. Babbitt to the Vandalia; Captain J. C. P. De Krafft if detached from the navy yard at League Island, on the 31st inst, and placed on waiting orders; Commander Henry H. Manley from the command of the Wyandotte and placed on waiting orders; Assistant Paymaster Z. T. Brown from the Catskill and placed on waiting orders.

THE BATTLE OF TRENTON.

TRENTON, Dec. 22, 1875. The Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the battle of Trenton on Monday next held another meeting last evening, when a committee was appointed, meeting last evening, when a committee was appointed, consisting of Mesara. Freese, Exton and Taylor, for the purpose of securing an orator to wind up the celebration by an oration in the evening. It was decided not to have any cannon in the streets, in order to guard to have any cannon in the streets, in order to guard to the sausalties. It is expected that about 1,000 "Troops" will be in line, and that the sham battle will be one of the best displays of that kind ever given in the State. There is a warm interest manifested in the the State. There is a warm interest manifested in the success of the undertaking, and it is predicted that the event will attract to the city thousands of visitors

THE DYNAMITE ASSASSIN.

WHO WAS HE WHEN IN LIFE? -- HAS HIS IDEN TITY BEEN ESTABLISHED ?- CURIOUS INCI-DENTS OF BLOCKADE BUNNING DURING THE

From the editorials and communications in the Herald I am led to believe that Thompson, alias Thomas, alias Thomassen, is or was a person whose identity is not yet fully established. The writer was in Dresder was then in its second year, and one of its chief sup-porters and leading members was "Father Thomas," a short, thick set, genial person, with full red beard. He lived well, entertained handsomely and was regarded by the resident Americans as a liberal gentleman. No bscription for the relief of the poor was without his name. In one instance two young American ladies started a school which proved unsuccessful. He called upon them, handed them \$1,000 to furnish their rooms and commence again, saying that if successful they could repay him and if not they should not regard it as a debt.

Confederate service during the entire war, first as a blockade runner, then as a soldier in Lee's army and afterward again a blockade runner. His last service was as caterer to Lee's army when it should arrive in Philadelphia. He received instructions from the government to go to Nassau, N. P., thence to New York and Philadelphia, and in the latter city make arrangements for Lee in his Northern march. For this purpose he received from the Confederate government a draft on their English bankers for \$25,000. In due time he arrived at Philadelphia and awaited Lee's advance. The battle of Gettysburg convinced him that the robellion was soon to end. He saw that the North was prosperous while the South was bankrupt. As he had lost about \$7,000 in the Confederate service he thought it was not robbery to repay himself in the best way he could. He therefore came to New York and asked the advice of a prominent banker, who told him to invest in anything but United States government bonds. After further inquiries he sold his bill of \$35,000 and bought United States securities and sailed for Europe. Upon the interest of United States bonds he informed me he was then living. was as caterer to Lee's army when it should arrive in

was then living.

One day Commodore Worden was in the club, when "Father" Thomas said to him:—"Commodore, you One day Commodore Worden was in the club, when "Father" Thomas said to him:—"Commodore, you ruined me once. The Tennessee (I believe that was the name of the blockade runner) was loaded with cotton in Mobile Harbor, ready to run out by the first opportunity; but you kept too strict watch, and one of your mortar boats sent a shell through her, which destroyed her and the whole cargo. Half that cotton was mine." The Commodore listened attentively and then replied:—"Thomas, it ever I catch you in such bad company again I should take as much pleasure in putting a bullet through your heart as I did in putting that bomb through the Tennessee."

Thomas straightened himself, and, throwing open his coat, said:—"Commodore, if you ever do I shall thereat open my coat thus and tell you to fire, for I should deserve it then, as I now deserve it for what I have already done. I am a thoroughly reconstructed rebel."

Mr. Curtin was then the United States Minister at

have already done. I am a thoroughly reconstructed robel."

Mr. Curtin was then the United States Minister at St. Petersburg. His family were spending the winter in Dresden, and he came down and remained there several weeks. Just before he left he gave a dinner to the members of the club. At this dinner "Father" Thomas was seated on ex-Governor Curtin's right hand. Mr. Curtin's speech was delivered in one of his humorous veins, and, in paying a high compliment to Thomas, he proposed the toast of "Our reunited country." and called upon Thomas to reply. Thomas rose, cried like a baby, finally commanded himself, spoke like a man and won the hearts of all present.

The above incidents do not show him to be the devil which the originator of this dynamite plot most assuredly was. It is hard to believe that he sank so low in six years. Yet, from the descriptions given in the Herald, "Father Thomas" resembles him strongly in everything but character.

AN EPISODE IN THE CAREER OF THOMPSON. Sr. Louis, Mo., Dec. 22, 1875. William Henry Thompson, made notorious in connec-

on with his attempt to destroy the steamer Mosel at Bremerhaven, came to St. Louis just after the war, and boarded several months at the Southern Hotel. He represented himself to those with whom he became inmate as a blockade runner at Nassau. He kept secluded, and it was understood that he was liable to cluded, and it was understood that he was lable to arrest at any time upon a charge of abetting the enemy as a blockade runner. The proprietor of the hotel states that he had ample means, having deposited in their safe at one time \$75,000 in United States bonds. In 1866 he went to Highland, Ill., where he spent his money freely. He met here a Miss Paris, daughter ofa former modiste of St. Louis, with whom he fell in love and married. The couple came to St. Leuis and lived for some time in rather elegant style, but suddenly disappeared to no one knows where.

THE RAILROAD WAR.

THE POSITION OF THE VANDERBILT ROADS WHAT THE MANAGERS SAY ABOUT IT. Yesterday there was a continuance of the excitement

railroad and mercantile circles in regard to the hostilities recently inaugurated by the trunk lines, which has resulted in reducing the rates of freights to the West. The Cheap Transportation Association, it seems, has endeavored to represent the merchants of New York, and not only in its own meetings, but in conference with the Chamber of Commerce, the speakers have placed the chief odium of the high freight charges upon the New York Central Railroad and its managers. This position was most especially pronounced yestereffort to rescue the merchants from high freight charges and was the first osfensibly to reduce the tariff. It was undoubtedly true that a meeting of railroad freight agents was held at the Eric offices on Tuesday. and that Messrs. Blanchard and Ward, on the part of the Eric Railway, met Messrs. Rutter and Crawford, of the New York Central, as well as Mr. Gossler, representing the Pennsylvania Railroad; but it was not true that Erie had assumed the rôle of a public benefactor, for, as it will appear, negotiations had been in progress between the Central and Grand Trunk roads for some time, and the decision arrived at by the meeting was a foregone conclusion from the position assumed by the latter road and its branches.

The complaints, it will be remembered have been that New York railroads were discriminating against this city in freights to Chicago, and that contracts could be secured from Boston, via the Grand Trunk road, on better terms than by any New York line. In

road, on better terms than by any New York line. In order to ascertain from headquarters on what basis these complaints rested a Herald reporter yesterday called at the residence of Commodore Vanderbilt, President of the New York Central road, but was referred to the acting chief and Vice President of the company, Mr. William H. Vanderbilt, who was found in his office in the Grand Central depot.

EK. VANDERBILT'S STATEMENT.

I have no objection to tell the Herald exactly how the matter stands. The Grand Trunk and the Vermont Central have for a long time been charging for freight to the West a few cents per 100 more than we have. This difference has been acceded to by the trunk lines—Baltimore and Ohio, Pennsylvania Central and New York Central—on account of the fact that they had a different gauge from the other trunk lines and had to carry 150 miles further. Now that they have altered their gauge and other things are equal, we asked that rates should be made uniform. I telegraphed to the officers in regard to the matter, and received a response from Governor Smith, representing the Vermont Central, that they were willing to some into any arrangement on the old basis, which would, in fact, give them a drawback of ten cents per 100 on freights.

The schedule is now as follows:—

freights.

The schedule is now as follows:—

| Cities. | Class | Class. | Clast | Class. | tl Class. |
|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Chicago, Ill | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20, | 10 |
| Cincinnati, Ohio | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Cairo, Ill | 88 | 90 | 26 | 26 | 19 |
| Columbus, Ohio | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Dayton, Ohio | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Evansville, Ind | 46 | . 39 | 32 | 30 | 23 |
| Fort Wayne, Ind | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Grand Rapids, Mich | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Indianapolis, Ind | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Keokuk, Iowa | 65 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 33 |
| Kansas City, Mo | 111 | 85 | 62 | 55 | 46 |
| Kalamazoo, Mich | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Louisville, Ky | 39 | 84 | 28 | 28 | 23 |
| Logansport, Ind | 39 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Lafayette, Ind | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 10 |
| Milwaukee, Wis | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Memphis, Tenn | 73 | 68 | 52 | 46 | 37 |
| Nashville, Tenn | 541 | 48 | 39 | 36 | 30 |
| Newark, Ohio | 20 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Pittsburg, Pa | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 18 |
| Peoria, Ill | 60 | 50 | 41 | 37 | 28 |
| Quincy, Ill | 65 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 33 |
| Richmond, Ind | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| St. Louis, Mo | 48 | 36 | 31 | 31 | 25 |
| Terre Haute, Ind | 81 | 26 | 21 | 21 | 16 |
| Zanesville, Ohuo | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 15 |

So far from the Eric Railway being the champion of the merchants' rights in this matter I would say that the proposition from that company was to fix the rate to Chicage at fifty cents. I said "no." The rates must be as low as from Boston, no matter how low they may be fixed. Any reports in regard to the meeting and any sentiment endeavored to be manufactured among the merchants against this road I pronounce as to the first part to be a breach of faith, and as to the second to he a shallow scheme to build up credit and popularity. The New York Cheap Trausportation Association or anybody else can

We will sell it cheaper than they can build it.

their double track freight railroad to the West, it seems to be gammon. I am willing to meet the merchants of New York to-morrow, and always will meet them on questions properly relaining to the interests and trade of this city, but will have nothing to do with the men whe are running those associations and have axes to grind. In the difficulties with the Grand Trunk road I offered to leave the matters in dispute to Charles Francis Admis, the Raifroad Commissioner of Mansachusetts, and Colonel Thomas Scott, with one other gentleman; but this proposition was not accepted. My opinion is that the other side will get tired first in this disagreement.

THE HIRSCH CUSTOM HOUSE FRAUDS.

The problem was bothy discussed in the Custom House yesterday whether Mr. Hirsch, of Market street, Philadelphia, recently a passenger by the steamship Russia, can be tried for perjury, he having sworn to an affidavit or declaration that all the dutiable goods in his baggage were two pieces of silk worth 230 francs, while in reality he had \$5,000 worth of dutiable goods. Mr. Coudert, the well known counsel, was engaged yesterday by Hirsch's brother, a lye merchant, of No. 78 Wooster street, to protect his brother's interests. The following is the law bearing on false oaths, as explained to a HERALD reporter by Deputy Collector Phelps (section 5,892, United States Revised Statutes,

chapter 4):—
Every person who having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer or person in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose er certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition or certificate by him declared as true, wilfully and contrary to such eath states or describes any material matter which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of perjury, and shall be punished by a face of not more than \$2,000 and by imprisonment at hard labor not more than five years, and shall, moreover, thereafter be incapable of giving testimony in any court of the United States until such time as the judgment against him is reversed.

The following further statement was made yesterday by Inspector Crowell to a HERALD reporter, with refer ence to the seizure of Hirsch's goods, ordered by Deputy

Collector General Nichols:— '
The oath of Mr. Hirsch was taken before Deputy Colector Lockwood. Hirsch's brother importuned me to "rub off" from his declaration the two pieces of silk.

lector Lockwood. Hirsch's brother importuned me to "rub off" from his declaration the two pieces of silk. I replied, No, sir, not for you or the Custom House. Hirsch himself then said to me, "Get me a good officer, I makes it all right with you." I said, "What de you mean?" Hirsch replied, "I give you 250; I be very liberal." I said, "All right," and then notified General Nichols, who then ordered Inspector R. P. Eagan to make a searching investigation. A few minutes after Hirsch exclaimed, "My God, that man is GOING THROUGH ALL MY BAGGAGE.

I have lots of things I don't want him to see. I don't want my tranks opened. I gives you 2100 to let my baggage pass." The pennity of taking a false outh was explained to him and all his baggage was seized.

The following is the hat of articles that Hirsch attempted to smuggle. His excuse is that his wife was sick and he wanted to hurry matters:—One box linen and cotton lace, I bag lace and silk scarfs, I package silk ribbons, I dozen metal lewel boxes, 19 cotton handkerchiefs, 2 packages cotton handkerchiefs, 2 cartons I dozen each) do., 1 package Jerusalem wood and curiosities, 2 packages snuff, 2 packages toys. 6 gilt vest chaius, 79 meerschaum cigar holders, 5 pipes of meerschaum, 4 music boxes, I locomotive, I silk bedspread, I piece woollen dress goods (meriuo), Ibrown silk dress, I green silk dress, I velvet dress, I black silk skirt, 6 morning dressing gowns, black velvet, 6 pieces of silk, bottle of extract can de cologne, 35 packages linen goods and embroideries, several embroidered chemises, 22 pieces embroidery and insertion, 4 opera glasses, gold pencil, 3 hunting whisties, 5 knives, 12 pearl vinalgreties, 66 pairs of gloves, I dozen ladies' embroidered ties, 6 table cloths, 10 package engravings, 5 packages umbrella silk, 12 dozen, 18 linen shirts with linen bosoms, 1 piece linen, 1 box ruching, 1 bag ornamental feathers and trimmings.

THE OE GRIEFF REVENUE FRAUDS.

THE DE GRIEFF REVENUE FRAUDS.

Last evening a HERALD reporter called at the Custom House upon Deputy Collector Phelps with reference to the De Grieff revenue frauds, and the following is that gentleman's statement :- "We have information of fraud being committed in undervaluation of ninety-five cases of trimmings. We have only been able to capture about seventy-three cases, partially emptied, and their value is estimated by the appraisers at \$14,000. Deputy Collector General Nichols and Inspectors W. H. Benja min and J. R. Cosgrove, who are now in charge of the establishment of Messrs. De Grieff, at Nos. 489 and 493 Broome street, will be relieved to morrow, as in all Broome street, will be relieved to morrow, as in all probability the firm will give bail. The amount of bail to be fixed will depend on circumstances. I can positively inform you that no Custom House official has been suspended or discharged in connection with the appraisement of the Paris dress triumings, &c., now under seizure." Subsequently the reporter went to the establishment of Measrs. De Grieff and found Mr. Triacca, the senior partner, in conversation with ex-Judge Hojebocm, his counsel in the present revenue question. Mr. Triacca made the following statement:—"We believe that these accusations against us of defrauding the revenue emanate from a discharged revenue question. Mr. Triacca made the following statement:—"We believe that these accusations against us of defrauding the revenue emanate from a discharged clerk named Beil. We say emphatically that we are not guilty of attempting to defraud the revenue to the extent of a single cent. The value of the ninety-five cases in question was about \$70,000. Mr. Muller, in charge of the trimming department, is absent in charge of the trimming department, is absent in Europe, likewise Mr. De Grieff. Our establishment has been placed under seizure since last week." In conversation with Inspectors Benjamin and Cosgrove, stationed on the premises, they stated "that no goods are allowed to leave the establishment without their knowledge and consent."

THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

At the meeting of the Fire Commissioners, yesterday, Fire Marshal Sheldon's report for November was read, of which the following is a copy :-\$10,000. Number, the loss on which was between \$29,000 and \$30,000. Number, the loss on which was between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Number, the loss on which was over \$400,000. Comparative statement of fires, loss and insurance for Number, 1874, and November, 1875.

1874. 1875. Losses. \$80,103 \$560.41
Insurance. \$90,200 1,073 77
Av-rage loss for fires November, 1874. \$533
Average loss for fires November, 1875. 5,845 c
CAUSES.
Carelessness of occupants and employes in using matches, pipes, cigars, hot seles, &c.
Chidren playing with matches.
Coals falling from furnace.
Defective flues
Defective arrangements of furnace. Defective fives.

Defective arrangements of furnace.

Pireworks.
Pat boiling over on fixe.
Poul chimneys.
Escaped gas igniting.
Glue boiling over.
Goods in show windows and curtains catching from gas Goods in show windows and curtains catching from gaslights.

1 locendiary.

4 locendiary.

5 kerosene lamps, exploding and upsetting.

9 Malicious mischief.

3 Overheated stoves, pipes and furnaces.

11 Spontaneous combustion and oily waste.

2 Sports from chimneys and furnaces.

4 Yapor of benzine igniting.

At the same meeting the Commissioners awarded the following contracts for the supply of hose:—Eureka Company, 5,000 feet; New York Company, 15,000 feet, at \$1 15.

A CENTENNIAL ENTERTAINMENT.

The first great event in this city next year in honor of the centennial anniversary of American independence will be the entertainment which is to be held on Washington's birthday, February 22, for the benefit of our local poor, without regard to creed or nationality. The people having the affair in charge are determined make it a magnificent success. Such gentlemen as Mr. E. A. Quintard, Judge Brady, Mayor Wickham, Mr. Oswald Ottendorfer, Mr. G. K. Lansing, Rev. Alvah Wiswall, Mr. Theodore Moss, Mt. Frank J. Dupignac, Mr. William H. Guion, Hon. John D. Townsend, Hon. Benjamin A. Willis, Mr. James M. Requa and Mr. Townsend Cary are connected with this movement, and these names form a guarantee that it will be conducted with energy and discretion. The Martha Washington Reception Committee, which has charge of the proposed centennial entertainment, has its head-quarters at the parlors of the Wheeler & Wisson Sewing Machine Company, on Fourteenth sireet, near Broadway, and a sub-committee, which goes by the name of the Centennial Committee, which goes by the name of the Centennial Committee, which goes by the name of the Centennial Committee, is located at the Astor House. The object of this latter body is to collect relies of the Revolutionary war times from various sources for exhibition upon the night of the entertainment, and the committee will be grateful to possessors of such corrosities if they will loan them for this occasion. In all probability the Academy of Music, Nilsson Hall and Irving Hall will be used on the 22d of February for the purposes of this Martha Washington reception. Wiswail, Mr. Theodore Moss, Mr. Frank J. Dupignac,

THE ANTHRACITE COAL TRADE.

At a meeting of the Anthracite Coal Board of Control held at the office of the Delaware and Hudson Cana Company, No. 73 Broadway, it was decided to make no change in the price of coal for January, thus leaving the scale the same as 10 October. A committee was appointed to fix the prices of the several varieties of coal for February.

TROTTING AT FLEETWOOD.

Although the present lessoes seem to have abandones Fleetwood Park, leaving the grounds without a superintendent and closing the hotel, a few gentlemen, by promising to put the track in as good a condition as they found it, were able yesterday to trot two "play or

hest three in five.

H. Peterson's gr. g. Billy (in harness)..... 2 2 1 1 1 1 G. Crane's blk. g. Ben Harris (to wagon) 1 1 2 2 2 2 Time, 3:07.—3:08—3:05—3:05—3:07.

FOREIGN TURF NOTES.

The sale of M. Charles Laffitte's (Major Fridolin) stud took place on Wednesday, December 1, at M. Lyon Chéri's repository, in the Rue de Ponthieu. Most of the French owners of racchorses were present, among them being MM. Lupin, Delatre, André, Baron Finet, Count de Berteux, Baron Seilhiere, MM. Fould, Stauh, Mereau Chasion, &c. Many of the animals in 'training had already been sold privately, the present lot comprising two-year-olds and yearlings. Among the formen the highest price obtained was £788, paid by Baron, Seilhiere, for Mambrin, a son of Ferragus and Misa, Margot, Skaroup, a yearling brother to Sabre and Solo, was taken by Count de Berteux for £500; Soudard was bought in at £400, and Bourbon at £580. Severalothers were also sent back, not having reached the reserved prices set on them. Only four of the ten yearlings found purchasers.

Lord Dorchester died on the 2d inst., at Greyweil, near Odham, aged sixty-four. He was well known as a breeder of blood stock, one of his racchorses being Cruiser, who afterward became so notorious in connection with "the horse trainer" Rarey. His most famous brood mare was Little Red Rover, who, in addition to being the dam of Cruiser, was some years afterward the dam also of the more celebrated Buccaneer. Colonel Budley Carleton succeeds to the title, the latter gentleman being a member of the Jockey Club, and well known on the turf. the French owners of racehorses were present, among

CHESS.

The New York Downtown Chess Club last evening voted a prize of \$100 to be contested for by Messrs. Mason and Bird at their coming match. Mr. Bird is now the guest of the club, and plays exclusively at their rooms.

The following games were played last evening between Messrs. Alberoni and Bird:—

KIRSBRITZKY GAMBIT. T GAMBIT.

P to K 4
P takes P
P to K Kt 4
P to K Kt 5
P to K Kt 5
P to K Kt 5
B takes Kt
P to Q 4
R to K B sq
Kt takes K P
T to Q 4
R to K B sq
Kt takes K P
T to Q B 3
Q takes K P
T to Q B 3
Q takes R P Q takes R P Q to K 2 Kt to Q 2 R to Q B se P to Q Kt 1 F to Q B 4 K to Q sq P takes P R to Q Kt sq Q to Q 3 Q takes R P takes P Ptakes P Q to B 7 ch K to Q B 2 Q takes B K to Kt 3 K takes C R to Kt 7 P to K 4 P to K 5 R to Kt 8 cb P to K 6 Mr. Alberoni resigns OAMBT. Bird. Bird.
P to K 4
P takes P
Q to K R 5 cb
P to K Kt 4
K Kt to K 2
Q to K R 4
P to K R 3

R to Q sq Q Kt to B 5 Q Kt to K 2 15-Q to Kt 5 ch 16-Kt takes Kt 17-Kt takes B B takes Kt Mr. Bird resigns. A SHOOTING CHALLENGE.

Q takes B Q to K Kt 2 Kt to Kt 3 Q to B 2 R to R 2

Mr. William M. Parks, President of the Long Island Gun Club, makes the following proposition to the Gun Club, makes the following proposition to the Chicago Gun Club. He will name four members of the Long Island Club to shoot with an equal number of the Chicago Club a match at pigeons, on or about January 20, for \$500 a side; match to be shot on the Long Island Club grounds, twenty-five birds each, twenty-eight or thirty yards rise; any gun allowed; English rules; birds furnished by the club free.

- HANDBALL.

A match in which considerable interest was excited was played at McQuade's court, Madison street, yesterday afternoon, the contestants being Messra. Barry and Brown, and unusually good sport was afforded, the game being contested with the most determined efforts on the part of both players, earning frequent and well merited applause. The victory was to be decided by the best two out of three. Brown, having won the was, went in but finally lost the first game by a score of 21 to 7. The second game tested severely the powers of both players, each in turn being frequently compelled to retire without adding to the score. Mr. Barry, however, finally succeeded in winning the game and match.

and match.

THE SCORE.

First Game.—Brown.—0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0, 4—7.

Barry.—0, 1, 2, 5, 0, 0, 0, 5, 1, 0, 7—21.

Second Game.—Brown.—3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1—14.

Barry.—2, 1, 0, 0, 2, 4, 2, 0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 1, 0, 0, 2, 1—21.

An interesting match was then played between Mossrs. Maguire, Fagan and Burns against Messrs.

Coulton, Jones and Murphy, the former preving victorious by a score of 21 to 19 in the first game and 21 to 18 in the second.

American rackets.

A match then took place—which has been arranged for some time—between Thomas Curry and Martin Gilmartin. The bets have been slightly in favor of Curry in this match, 5 to 4 being freely offered and taken. Mr. Gilmartin, contrary to expectation, more than justified the confidence which his friends had placed in his skill, as he won the match in spite of the reality good play of his antaconist.

of his antagonist.

First Game.—Mr. Gilmarkin—1, 3, 0, 4, 6, 2, 1, 4—21, Mr. Curry—0, 0, 0, 3, 5, 2, 1, 5, 2—16.

Second Game.—Mr. Gilmartin—3, 5, 2, 0, 8, 0—18. Mr. Curry—4, 6, 3, 4, 0, 4—21.

Third Game.—Mr. Gilmartin—3, 6, 5, 0, 2, 5—21. Mr. Curry—2, 0, 0, 7, 6—18. Another match is talked of between these players.

BENEFIT TO STEPHEN TAYLOR.

Stephen Taylor, the well known Jersey boxer, will be tendered a benefit to-day at Harry Hill's. In addition to the usual attractions there will be given glove con tests between Seddons' Mouse and Eddy Burke; James tests between Seddons' Mouse and Eddy Burke; James Kelly and George Seddons; Mike Coburn and Ned Mallahan; William Madden and George Siler; George Rooke and John Dwyer; John Saunders and Peter Croker; William McCleilan and Mike Noonan; Professor Miller and John Murphy; William Edwards and Sam Collyer; with a grand wind up between Joe Coburn and Stephen Taylor.

A GOOD IDEA. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

The privilege accorded by your magnificent paper to citizens of calling attention to public matters has induced me to write this note. I am a passenger from twice to six times each day on the New York Elevated Railroad from some one station to another, and fully appreciate the advantages afforded by this road over the street roads. But there is one convenience this railroad company could give to passengers with comparatively no cost to itself and great convenience to the travelling public. That is, to place in each station a clock, and beside the clock a printed time table for the respective station, the figures being sufficiently large to be read from any part of the station room. There are many persons who do not carry watches, and companatively few watches agree with the time of the company; but if the company's time and schedule were kept at each station the convenience would not only be great to all, but save thousands of questions being asked each day at each station by impatient passengers. I sincerely hope the company will do its patrons the favor to supply this convenience, and not necessitate their asking questions or looking at watches that do not agree with the time of the company. Yours,

DECEMBER 2, 1872. Railroad from some one station to another, and fully